

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated July 19, 2004, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 remain pending in the application. With regard to the Examiner's statement of allowance, Applicant submits that while the statement reflects recitations of the method claim 21, Applicant submits that the apparatus claim 22 should not be limited to the specific criteria for the method, and vice versa.

The remaining claims stand rejected over the art of record. In particular, claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-15 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the combination of Yamada in view of Yamaguchi and Priem. Claims 6 and 13 remain rejected under Section 103 as being unpatentable over Yamada, Yamaguchi and Priem and further in view of Nakayoshi. Claim 16 has been rejected under Section 103 as being unpatentable over Yamada, Yamaguchi and Priem and further in view of Blankenbecler. Claim 17 has been rejected under Section 103 as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Yamaguchi and Priem and further in view of Tomiyasu. Claims 18-20 have been rejected under Section 103 as being unpatentable over Yamada, Yamaguchi, Priem, Tomiyasu and further in view of Cok. Applicant hereinabove cancels claims 1 and 9 and rewrites the remaining claims to depend upon allowed claims 21 and 22. Applicant submits that the modifications should be entered because they place the application in condition for allowance. In view of the above, Applicant submits that claims 2-8 and 10-22 are in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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